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Utilization of Research in Combating Violence in Alaska: An Ecological Perspective

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Summary

Research diffusion and use has increasingly become an interest of social scientists and policymakers. This interest on the part of policymakers is evidenced by the results of this study. In particular, high level administrators in 268 human service agencies of Alaska reported moderate to high use of statistics, evaluation studies and other social science research in making policy decisions about combating violence. Findings are also presented that point to specific facilitators and inhibitors of research use. The conclusions and policy implications highlight how the results of this research utilization study can direct the formulation of a research and development agenda at the agency and state level.

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Utilization of Research in Policymaking
to Combat Violence in Alaska:
An Ecological Perspective

by

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ABSTRACT

Research diffusion and use has increasingly become an interest of social scientists and policymakers. This interest on the part of policymakers is evidenced by the results of this study. In particular, high level administrators in 268 human service agencies of Alaska reported moderate to high use of statistics, evaluation studies and other social science research in making policy decisions about combating violence. Findings are also presented that point to specific facilitators and inhibitors of research use. The conclusions and policy implications highlight how the results of this research utilization study can direct the formulation of a research and development agenda at the agency and state level.

USE OF RESEARCH IN POLICYMAKING
TO COMBAT VIOLENCE IN ALASKA

In recent years there have been frequent reports of policy-makers' lack of responsiveness to research knowledge (National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals, 1976; Salasin and Davis, 1977). A common complaint has been that decision-makers do not read, discuss or use research products. This may be the case, but perhaps the problem is being overstated. Some authorities on the subject propose that research information is far more influential than is thought, but that producers tend not to recognize this influence (Weiss, 1977). The extent and kind of knowledge used and its impact on citizens, organizations and organizational networks is not really well documented (e.g., van de Vall and Bolas, 1982).

The literature also points to a variety of factors that are said to explain why administrators use research in making decisions. (Havelock, 1969; Human Interaction Research Institute, 1976). First, there are variables that influence decision-making associated with the product and its dissemination. For example, Weiss and Bucuvalas (1977; 1980) discuss results that concern the nature of research. Further, attention has been given to the importance of reporting format, face-to-face presentation, and so forth (Glaser and Coffey, 1967; Roberts and Larson, 1971; Fairweather et al, 1974). Information or research brokers have also been said to be associated with research use (Rich, 1977; 1979). Second, researchers and their base of operation have been found to play an important role in whether or not research prod-

ucts are used (Patton, 1978; Johnson, 1980). It has been found that producer-user relationships and organizational processes associated with research production oftentimes facilitate and inhibit research diffusion.

While there is an abundance of literature that discusses research use, empirical work on the subject is sparse. An opportunity to advance our knowledge about research production, dissemination and use was presented in a 1981 study in Alaska which focused on violence reduction activities in human service agencies.¹ In designing the study, we posited three policy relevant questions which would generate results for establishing research and development (R&D) agenda for combating violence in the 1980's. These questions were:

- What are administrators doing to improve their agency's efforts to control and prevent violence?
- To what extent do administrators use research in making policy decisions?
- What factors are important in stimulating use of research in policymaking?

Presented below are data collection procedures used to generate answers to these questions and a description of policymaking activities in connection with combating violence. In addition, answers to each question are presented in tables and in discussion. Finally, suggestions are offered for a research and development agenda which stems directly from the results of the survey.

Methods and Procedures

Data Collection and Sample Description

Data for the study were collected from administrators responsible for managing or assisting in the management of 268 human service agencies operating in federal, state or municipal government or in the private sector.² In cases of statewide operations, regional and local level offices were considered units equivalent to central headquarters. Figure 1 presents the number of agencies that participated in the study within 24 major communication centers across the state.

Eight trained interviewers conducted face to face interviews with agency personnel during June, July and August, 1981. Prior to the site visit, a telephone interview was conducted in most cases to determine what agencies were doing to control and prevent violence and to schedule the personal interview. Most on-site interviews took 30 to 45 minutes, had minimal interruptions, and were conducted in a way that the interviewee felt comfortable.³ Although the results are not included in this presentation, administrators being interviewed were asked to complete a questionnaire designed to assess the agency's capacity to program for the control and prevention of violence. If other personnel were involved in making decisions about violence related programming or policymaking, the administrator was asked to have them also complete the questionnaire portion of the study.

Table 1 describes the agencies and administrators who participated in the study. It is evident that an array of human service agencies have to deal with various problems concerning violence or the potential for violence. We

Table 1

sampled not only agencies within the traditional criminal justice and legal systems but also many agencies designed specifically to handle violent behavior or victims of violence. We also included in the study various social and health related agencies that were involved in violence reduction action. Unfortunately, this study did not include a sufficient number of schools since the data were collected during the summer months.

Most of the administrators interviewed were heads of their agency office (81%) and one-third of the organizational units that were sampled had female administrators (32%). A large majority of the participating policymakers also had at least a four year college degree (72%) and had been in their present position for four or less years (78%). In regard to management styles, the administrators under study indicated involving, to various degrees, their subordinates in decision making.

Description of Policymaking Activities

In Alaska the problem of violence began receiving statewide attention with the passage of the 1979 Domestic Violence Act and the establishment of the 1981 State House

of Representatives Task Force on Violence. The Domestic Violence Act, which focuses on civil remedies and reporting procedures, has remained in the spotlight as it has been amended several times since its inception. Unfortunately, however, the work of the task force on violence did not continue in the 1982 and 1983 legislative sessions.

In regard to human service agencies' program and policies for combating violence, we found evidence that 71 percent of the sample (189) engaged in activities which focused on treatment and support for victims, treatment and control of violent behavior, and/or prevention of violence. The remaining 29 percent of the agencies surveyed (70) provided general services which also included response to violence related problems.

Chart 1 presents an illustrative list of specific violence reduction policy activities. Foremost, unlike the national emphasis on violent crime, murder, robbery, etc., we found Alaskan agencies emphasizing policy and programs to combat domestic violence and sexual assault. For example, sheltered services were available in many of the communities. A number of police agencies indicated establishing special procedures for handling domestic violence cases. State and municipal prosecutor offices were found giving increasing attention to sexual assault cases. Hospitals were concentrating on setting procedures for handling rape cases. Further, a number of agencies were establishing new services for combating incest.

One of the driving forces behind the development of policy to combat these types of violence in Alaska appears to be the Counsel on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault. Agencies receiving Counsel funds were found providing an array of services in the areas of treatment of victims, treatment of abusers, and prevention of violence. The 1979 Domestic Violence Act seems to be another reason why family violence and sexual assault has received attention. We found in a number of communities that criminal justice agencies mentioned the Act in connection with particular violence reduction action.

We also found that the most common program and policies to combat violence are crisis intervention, shelter services for battered women, procedures for processing violence-related cases, and community awareness presentations. Additionally, we found a number of agencies emphasizing training of personnel to handle violent situations. Some agencies were providing an advocate service for assisting the victim in the legal and criminal justice system.

In regard to treatment service for victims and abusers, the most common treatment modality was counseling. Agencies indicated using group counseling more than individual or family counseling, but a number of agencies were increasingly placing more emphasis on family involvement in the treatment process. We also found support groups (i.e., self-help modality) being emphasized by a few agencies.

Finally, in several communities there was interagency policy development to combat violence. For example, in one community the police and a support agency were experimenting with a team approach where an officer and support agency staff member would respond together to domestic violence calls. In other communities, interagency referral programs were formalized and several interagency planning groups had been established.

Use of Research in Improving Violence Focused Services

What changes are administrators making to improve services to combat violence? In answering this question we asked decision-makers to indicate changes that had been made in their agency over the past year and a half (January 1980 to June 1981). Two categories of changes are worth noting: changes reflecting program and policy action and those that depict preparatory action. The policy changes included service or program modification, new service development, training modification, regulation revisions and personnel increases. Preparatory action consisted of participation in special schools, and engaging in planning, evaluation and research activities.

Table 2 shows that service modification was the most prevalent policy change (62%), followed by new developments (46%), training modification (38%), regulation revisions (34%) and personnel increases (22%).

Table 2 here

In regard to preparatory actions, 50% of the agencies indicated having sent personnel to one or more schools, 40% of the agencies also indicated that they engaged in planning activities. Forty percent of the agencies also indicated having conducted evaluations, but most were self-evaluations rather than evaluations by outsiders. While we found little evaluation being conducted by outsiders, administrators did not seem to be adverse to having their violence reduction action evaluated; it was a question of funds to complete the evaluations. Twenty percent of the agencies indicated engaging in other research activities, but more of the research was only descriptive and therefore limited in its policy relevance.

When the prevalence of action to control and prevent violence was computed, 70% of the agencies indicated having engaged in 1 to 5 changes in policy actions and 71% stated that their agency had taken preparatory action to control and/or prevent violence (Table 3). These findings strongly suggest that administrators are making a concerted effort to combat violence in Alaska.

Table 3 here

To what extent is research used in administrative decisions to make policy changes about combating violence? Since research use means different things to different people, we review the literature for conceptual clarity. It appears that research use has been conceptualized by some

authorities as instrumental and conceptual use (e.g., Caplan et al, 1975; Rich, 1975; Weiss, 1980). Instrumental use refers to research being applied to a specific problem in an isolated decision; whereas, conceptual use refers to research influencing decision-makers thinking about the issues rather than having direct influence on specific problems.

In the research being reported in this paper, we centered on two types of instrumental uses, research influence on programs or policy decisions to reduce violence and research influence on preparatory action. This usage was determined by asking administrators about the kind of research, if any, that they had reviewed over the past one-and-one-half years.⁵ In conjunction with specific policy changes, we probed to determine whether or not the research they had seen had influenced them to act. Additional probes were made to determine other nonresearch influences.

Table 4 presents the type of research influence as well as other sources of influence when making changes in program/policy action to reduce violence.⁶ We found that

Table 4 here

approximately 40% of the administrators indicated that research influenced them to modify or develop new programs, to revise the training program and to hire additional personnel to combat violence. Decisions about revising regulations were influenced less by research; only 25% of those

interviewed reported this source of influence. We totaled up the number and percent of administrators who reported that they had been influenced by research to make at least one change in the direct violence reduction policies and found that research played a role in the decisions of 47% (123) of the administrators surveyed. This level of research influence is higher than what has been reported in other studies conducted in the lower 48 states.⁷

Statistics (e.g., rape up by 50%) were found to be the most frequent type of research influence. While statistics are policy relevant, this type of research has limited utility. That is, statistics can help define the parameters of violence related problems, but cannot provide guidance in dealing with the problem. Explanatory (e.g., correlation studies) and evaluative research are needed to direct decision making about effective ways of alleviating the problem. Unfortunately, few administrators used evaluation studies or other social science research studies when deciding changes in violence focused services.

We were also interested in nonresearch sources which had influenced decisions about combating violence. Table 4 shows that the two most frequently mentioned sources of nonresearch influence were legal or administrative requirements and the personal assessment of the administrator. Interpersonal contacts (e.g., discussion with other agency personnel) and exposure to issues or programs (e.g., mass media exposure or written descriptions of programs) were the

next most frequently reported nonresearch influence. Resource availability appeared to be an important source of influence among a few administrators who made decisions about developing new services, modifying the training program or increasing personnel. Changes in the operating philosophy or structure of the agency influenced some decisions to modify or develop new programs. Public pressure was the least reported source of influence to engage in change.

Important Factors in Stimulating Research Use

What factors inhibit or facilitate research use in making policy changes? In answering this question we reviewed the literature to identify predictor variables which were said to be associated with planned change or research use. In turn, we obtained information from the interviews that allowed the construction of multiple measures for the sets of independent variables. Variables that were considered in this analysis included:⁸

I. Research Products and Dissemination Variables

- extent and type of research exposure (number of studies and/or findings remembered);
- quality of research (scales measuring the validity, and policy relevance of research reviewed);
- type of media used to transmit the research (e.g., report, conference);
- acquisition, dissemination and diffusion arrangements (e.g., availability of personnel to screen or to serve

as brokers of written information)

II. Variables Associated with Researchers and Their Base of Operation

- research capacity within the operational agency (e.g., number of research staff);
- source of research (i.e., jurisdiction in which the research was produced;
- quality of the relationship between researchers and administrators and bad experiences with researchers;
- extent and type of interagency research sources;

III. Variables Associated with the Agency Setting

- organization characteristics (see Table 1); and
- administrator characteristics (see Table 1).

Using a multivariate statistical technique referred to as discriminant function analysis, we uncovered those variables that were important in discriminating between three groups of agencies: agencies that reported no voluntary change in policy to combat violence (n=66); those that had made changes but were influenced only by nonresearch sources (n=73); and those that had made changes and were influenced by research (n=123). Table 5 presents the group mean differences regarding the significant predictors and Table 6 displays the more technical results of the discriminant function analysis.

Tables 5 and 6 here

What these results actually mean is that we found a set of predictor variables which could be used to classify agencies along two dimensions, prevalence of research use and policy change. First, a set of six variables discriminated between administrators who had been influenced by research to engage in policy action and those who either had made no voluntary changes or had voluntarily initiated change which had only been influenced by sources other than research.

An inspection of Table 5 shows that the average scores for these variables were either significantly higher or lower within the research influenced group than within the other two groups. More specifically, research users reported more exposure to research (mean=7.91 studies); more linkage with outside research sources (mean=1.07 different types of sources); more likely to have information screeners or brokers (26%); less likely to be a state agency (26%); less likely to be exposed to research produced in Alaska (13%); and less likely to have a chief administrator with an autocratic management style (20%). While these variables are not causes of research use, they do reveal conditions that are associated with the prevalence of research use and policy change.

In Table 6 the coefficients under the research influence function show the relative strength of each statistically significant predictor, the larger the coefficient (disregard the sign) the stronger the predictor is associated with research use.⁹ Variables with the strongest associations

were research exposure (.50) and whether or not the administrator worked in a state agency (.56). We cannot say maximum exposure to research studies will produce maximum research use; however, it can be said maximum research exposure may create conditions that facilitate research use. Furthermore, knowing that state agencies use research less than private, municipal or federal agencies, suggests that this governmental structure, not administrators working in this structure, is responsible for limited use of research.

A surprising finding was that Alaskan produced research influenced decision making less than research produced on the Outside (-.36). This result takes into consideration variations in the amount and quality of research which was reviewed by administrators; however, we could not take into account the fact that the production of the most useful types of research, evaluation and correctional studies, was low in Alaska. Possibly, Alaskan produced research influenced decisions concerning programmatic action less than Outside research because of the limited availability of Alaska based evaluation and correlation research results.

Other results in regard to research use were as expected; information brokers and linkages with Outside research sources facilitated research use, and autocratic management inhibited use.

A second set of four variables discriminated between the group of agencies with administrators who had made no volun-

tary policy changes to combat violence and those who had initiated changes regardless of the source of influence. Returning to Table 5 shows agencies in the no policy change group having less bad research experiences (mean= .35 experiences); more likely to engage in general violence reduction activity (47%); less likely to offer domestic violence services (21%); and, having administrators with more years in their current position (mean=4.54 years).

Table 6 reveals that the variables with the strongest association to the no change function are the length of tenure of the head administrator (.54) and whether only general violence reduction services were being offered (.54). Surprisingly, agencies that made changes, regardless of the source of influence, reported more bad research experiences (-.29). This finding suggests that bad experiences do not inhibit administrators who are inclined to use research in planning for change.

A final finding which was also somewhat surprising, was that agencies offering domestic violence services emerged being more receptive to change policy than agencies offering other types of services (-.23).

Conclusions and Policy Development Implications

This study of violence reduction action in Alaska was intended to determine: (1) what is being done to improve agency efforts to control and prevent violence; (2) how research influences decisions about violence reduction

policies; and, (3) what facilitates or inhibits research use in making policy changes. These questions were answered by collecting interview data from administrators of 268 human service agencies in 24 Alaskan population centers. The results which have been discussed in detail have a number of policy development implications. Most apparent in the survey was the extensive amount of energy which is being targeted to combating violence. What is lacking, however, is a systematic effort to produce, disseminate and use research for directing this energy. We found that administrators were exposed to research, but that very little of the most useful types of research, evaluation and correlation studies had been produced in Alaska. As such, our results demonstrate a particular need for a violence focused research and development agenda which focuses on the dissemination and use of Alaskan produced research.

Within the large multilevel human service agencies a research, development and dissemination (R,D & D) program should be developed which is intended to produce data for combating violence. Research might be produced in connection with the agency's primary service population, management operation, personnel and training, policy analysis and the like. Attention should also focus on developing and validating a viable evaluation system which can provide current data for policymaking. We found some agencies conducting self-evaluations, but there were few instances where formal systems were in operation. Because of the expense of

developing an evaluation system, agencies could develop a multifunctional system that considers the control and prevention of violence as a major function.

An additional facet of the proposed agency based R,D & D should include formal linkages with other agencies that can provide additional information about the control and prevention of violence. Also, chief administrators need assistance in screening the voluminous amounts of information which are produced and retrieved; therefore, information brokers are imperative. Both interagency linkages with a variety of research sources and the presence of information brokers were found in our study to be correlated with research use.

Municipal and state government should provide a R,D & D program for smaller agencies that they fund. The research needs of these agencies are similar to the needs of larger agencies; however, instead of a single research program for a large multi-level agency, this research program could be interagency focused for agencies with similar functions.

In addition to an agency based R,D & D program, a state operated R,D & D program should be created which would provide a variety of funds and services for producing, disseminating and utilizing research to combat violence. First and foremost, funds should be appropriated for research grants. We found that most agency administrators were receptive to research being conducted in their agency; however, in most

cases there were no funds available for hiring an outside consultant to do research in connection with combating violence.¹⁰ In order to effectively administer these funds, a rigorous review process should be implemented with the intent of generating reliable and valid study results for use in controlling and preventing violence.

A third service that this state operated R,D & D program could provide is training for administering local agency research programs or for using research results. It is common knowledge that producing valid research results or putting research to effective use are no easy accomplishments. Overcoming misuse of research is particularly important. We found evidence that administrators were misusing research in various ways. For example, it was reported on occasion that policy changes had been influenced by research that, when described, was found to have serious methodological flaws. Misuse of agency based research could be minimized by training personnel to conduct reliability and validity checks. Additionally, agency staff can be trained to identify reliable and valid results that are produced by other researchers.

In conclusion, there is no question about the willingness of human services components of Alaskan agencies to improve services targeted to combat violence. Our study noted frequent and pervasive changes in many agencies, particularly agencies providing domestic violence services. In regard to future policy development, the question may not be

how to stimulate change, but rather how to slow change down in order that effective policy formulation can result. It is hoped that the results of this study provide the impetus for the development of a systematic and rational approach to improving violence related services at the state level.

NOTES

1. Violence is a recognized social problem. In recent years there has been a strong push to improve control and prevent violence services in the USA (National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence, 1969). In the 1960's and 1970's, change was called for in connection with collective violence, prison violence, and terrorism. In the 1980's the push has been to improve the control and prevention of violent crime, domestic violence and sexual assault (Wolgang and Weiner, 1981).

2. Participating agencies were selected if they dealt with some form of violence or potential for violence.

3. In cases when either the interviewer or interviewee was uncomfortable or the interviewee did not fully cooperate, a special statistical analysis was conducted to determine whether or not the interview situation contaminated the policy relevant relationship of interest.

4. While not displayed in table form, 31% of the agencies (83) indicated being engaged in two or more of these types of actions to combat violence.

5. These interview questions focused on general recall of statistics, evaluation studies and correlational studies and specific recall of the findings from studies mentioned. These two indicators were found to be highly correlated (.94).

6. When computing research influence, we included all administrators who indicated being influenced by research, irrespective of other sources of influence. As such, some decision makers were only influenced by research while others were influenced by research and other sources. Nonresearch influence classification included administrators who only mentioned being influenced by sources other than research which are listed in Table 4.

7. See National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals (1976) for a discussion of the limited use of research in the justice area. Caplan (1975; 1976) reports on a study report of directed instrumental use of research in federal and county government. In contrast,

Deshpande and Zaltman (1983) present evidence of high instrumental use of research in the private sector.

8. We have conducted a separate analysis which centered on the importance of organizational readiness in dealing with violence. These data were obtained by the questionnaire mentioned earlier.

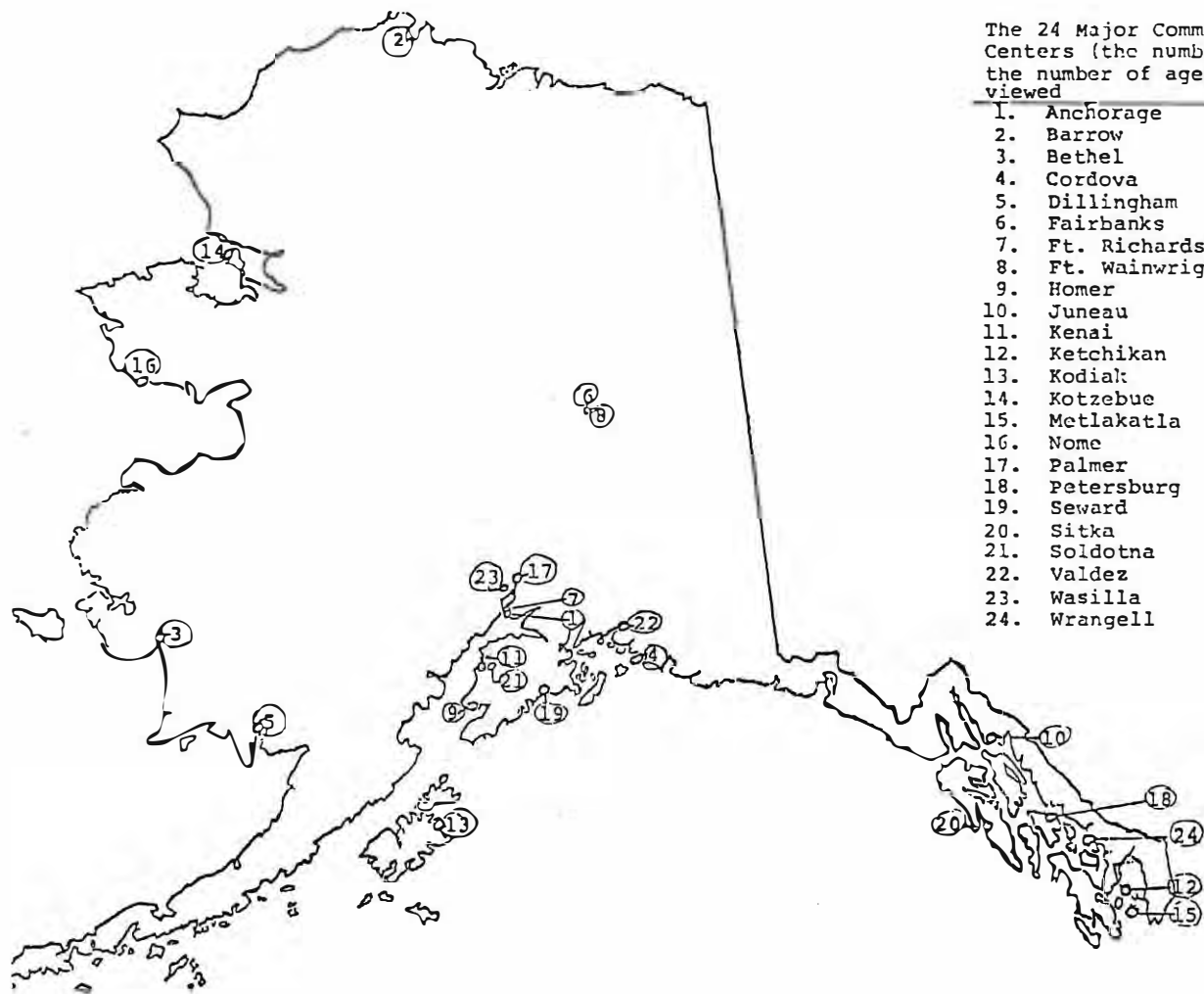
9. The discriminant function coefficients are similar to Betas in multiple regression analysis except, discriminant coefficients for a given variable measure the magnitude of the relation with the function (a control for the effect of other variables) only in relation to the total amount of variance explained by that function. For example, if you square the coefficient .50 which characterizes the strength of the correlation of research exposure and research influence, the result is .25 or 25% of the total amount of variation that can be explained by function one.

10. The Justice Center within the School of Justice of the University of Alaska, Anchorage recently completed a research needs survey of 236 human service agencies across the state and has also found the agencies are eager to collaborate with the Center in conducting research or in searching for research funds. Approximately 30% of these agencies have allocated money specifically for research, but few of these agencies with money indicated that combating violence was a priority problem in need of research.

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The 24 Major Communication Centers (the number indicate the number of agencies interviewed)

1.	Anchorage	(75)
2.	Barrow	(6)
3.	Bethel	(18)
4.	Cordova	(2)
5.	Dillingham	(3)
6.	Fairbanks	(38)
7.	Ft. Richardson	(2)
8.	Ft. Wainwright	(3)
9.	Homer	(3)
10.	Juneau	(37)
11.	Kenai	(4)
12.	Ketchikan	(8)
13.	Kodiak	(13)
14.	Kotzebue	(6)
15.	Metlakatla	(6)
16.	Nome	(7)
17.	Palmer	(4)
18.	Petersburg	(4)
19.	Seward	(2)
20.	Sitka	(16)
21.	Soldotna	(3)
22.	Valdez	(4)
23.	Wasilla	(2)
24.	Wrangell	(5)

Figure 1

TABLE 1

ORGANIZATION AND ADMINISTRATOR PROFILES
OF THE VIOLENCE STUDY PARTICIPANTS

ORGANIZATION CHARACTERISTICS					
<u>Function of the Organization</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Primary Type of Violence Confronted</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Enforcement Administration	9	3	Sexual related violence	5	2
Enforcement Operation	49	18	Child abuse, neglect and assault	17	6
Regulatory Organization	3	1	Spouse abuse	6	2
Court (Juvenile, Adult)	21	8	Domestic violence	52	20
Prosecution	11	4	Suicide and attempts	1	-
Defense	9	3	Assaults among citizens	6	2
Juvenile Corrections	16	6	Assaults on authority	18	7
Adult Correctional Operations	14	5	Violent crime (Part I)	7	3
Adult Correctional Administration	4	2	Drug/alcohol related violence	24	9
Social Services	30	11	Various combinations of above	15	6
Mental Health	21	8	All of above	116	43
Health	21	8	No data	1	-
Victim Support	19	6		268	100
Alcohol/Drug Treatment	19	7			
Advocacy	12	5			
Crisis Intervention	5	2			
Coroner	4	2			
Diversions	2	1			
Education	1	-			
	268	100			
<u>Type of Jurisdiction</u>			<u>Organizational Level</u>		
Private	74	28	Single organization	119	45
Municipal	52	20	Headquarters of multilevel organization	25	9
State	110	42	Second level of multilevel organization	103	39
Federal	25	10	Third level of multilevel organization	20	7
No Data	1	-	No data	1	-
	268	100		268	100
ADMINISTRATOR CHARACTERISTICS					
<u>Administrator Position</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Gender</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
Head	214	81	Male	178	68
One below head	49	19	Female	83	32
Two below head	1	-	No data	7	-
No data	4	-		268	100
	268	100			
<u>Years in Position</u>			<u>Years in Organization</u>		
Less than one year	66	25	Less than one year	30	12
One to two years	81	31	One to two years	54	20
Three to four years	57	22	Three to four years	47	18
Five to six years	30	11	Five to six years	38	15
Seven to nine years	16	6	Seven to nine years	29	11
Ten to fourteen years	9	3	Ten to fourteen years	28	11
Fifteen to 21 years	5	2	Fifteen to twenty-one years	27	10
No data	4	-	Twenty-two to twenty-five years	9	3
	268	100	No data	6	-
<u>Management Style</u>			<u>Educational Level</u>		
Admin. head makes most decisions	27	10	Less than high school degree	1	-
Admin. head makes most decisions, but solicits input on certain matters	49	19	High school degree	20	7
Admin. head makes most decisions, but solicits input on most matters	90	37	Less than two years college	34	13
Admin. head makes some decisions and allows personnel as a group to decide on some matters	70	27	A.A. degree	12	5
Personnel as a group make decisions on most matters	19	7	A.A. degree plus additional courses	7	3
No data	13	-	B.A. or B.S. degree	52	20
	268	100	B.A. or B.S. degree plus addit'l courses	19	7
			Masters degree	68	26
			Law degree	35	13
			Ph.D. or M.D. degree	16	6
			No data	4	-
				268	100

**Chart 1: Illustrative Violence Reduction Action of
Human Service Agencies in Alaska**

I. Treatment and Support for Victims of Violence

- shelter service for battered women and children
- protective custody service
- therapy and counseling for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault
- advocacy services for victims
- support group services
- crisis intervention programming
- hotlines
- victim compensation services
- referral programming
- policy for providing assistance to victims of violence
- special staff assigned to work with victims of violence

II. Treatment and Control of Violent Behavior

- therapy and counseling for violent offenders and sexual abusers
- treatment of problems of alcohol among violent offenders
- policy for investigating and prosecuting sexual abusers
- contingency planning for handling organized violence
- close surveillance and supervision of defendants and violent offenders
- special staff assigned to cases involving domestic violence or sexual assault
- parent skill training
- special training and workshops for personnel who have to handle problems of violence
- interagency team approach to responding to crisis situations involving violent behavior

III. Prevention of Violence

- community awareness presentations in high schools and in the community
 - media campaign, e.g., movies on rape prevention, radio and TV shows
 - special workshops for identifying potential abusers
 - booklet on child abuse and neglect
 - security services
-

TABLE 2

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF AGENCIES
BY TYPE OF ACTION TAKEN TO CONTROL AND PREVENT VIOLENCE

<u>Program and Policy Action</u>			<u>Preparatory Action</u>		
No.			No.		
<u>Program/Service Modification</u>			<u>Special School Participation</u>		
None	101	38	None	133	50
One	138	52	One school	65	25
Two or more	27	10	Two or more	66	25
No Data	2	-	No Data	4	-
	268	100		268	100
<u>Program/Service Development</u>			<u>Planning Activity</u>		
None	144	54	No	159	60
One	103	39	Yes	108	40
Two or more	20	7	No Data	1	-
No Data	1	-		268	100
	268	100	<u>Evaluation Activity</u>		
<u>Training Modifications</u>			None	161	60
None	163	62	Yes, self-evaluation	93	36
One	89	33	Yes, evaluation by outsider (non-paid)	7	3
Two or more	14	5	Yes, evaluation by outside consultant	2	1
No Data	2	-		263	100
	268	100	<u>Research Activity</u>		
<u>Policy/Regulation Revisions</u>			No research	212	80
None	176	66	Descriptive study	45	17
One	83	31	Exploratory study	2	1
Two or more	7	3	Combination	6	2
No Data	2	-	No Data	3	-
	268	100		268	100
<u>Personnel Increases</u>					
No increases	207	78			
Yes, increases	58	22			
No Data	3	-			
	268	100			

TABLE 3

NUMBER AND PERCENT OF AGENCIES
BY PREVALENCE OF ACTION TAKEN TO CONTROL AND PREVENT VIOLENCE

Type of Action	Extent of Action					
	0 Change	1	2	3	4	5 Changes
Program/Policy Action	% 30	24	22	16	7	1
	# 79	62	57	44	18	3
Preparatory Action	% 29	26	30	13	2	-
	# 76	69	77	33	5	-

TABLE 4

TYPE OF RESEARCH AND NONRESEARCH INFLUENCE
TO INITIATE VIOLENCE REDUCTION ACTION

<u>Program/Service Modification (N=164)</u>					
<u>Research Influence</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>	<u>Nonresearch Influence</u>	<u>No.</u>	<u>%</u>
No research influence	98	60	Nonresearch influence	30	18
Influenced by statistics	30	18	Legal administrative requirement	39	24
Influenced by evaluations	8	5	Personal assessment	38	23
Influenced by social science research	14	9	Interpersonal contacts	17	10
Influenced by combination of above	14	9	Exposure to issues/programs	19	12
	164	100	Public pressure	7	4
			Philosophical/organizational changes	10	6
			Resource availability	4	2
				164	100
<u>Program/Service Development (N=121)</u>					
No research influence	73	60	Nonresearch influence	21	17
Influenced by statistics	18	15	Legal administrative requirement	23	19
Influenced by evaluations	6	5	Personal assessment	25	21
Influenced by social science research	12	10	Interpersonal contacts	16	13
Influenced by combination of the above	12	10	Exposure to issues/programs	16	13
	121	100	Public pressure		
			Philosophical/organizational changes	9	8
			Resource availability	7	6
				121	100
<u>Policy/Regulation Revisions (N=89)</u>					
No research influence	67	75	Nonresearch influence	13	15
Influenced by statistics	9	10	Legal administrative requirement	40	46
Influenced by evaluations	3	3	Personal assessment	11	12
Influenced by social science research	4	5	Interpersonal contacts	12	14
Influenced by combination of the above	6	7	Exposure to issues/programs	6	7
	89	100	Public pressure	3	3
			Philosophical/organizational changes	3	3
			Resource availability	0	0
				89	100
<u>Training Modifications (N=100)</u>					
No research influence	61	61	Nonresearch influence	24	24
Influenced by statistics	15	15	Legal administrative requirement	25	25
Influenced by evaluations	5	5	Personal assessment	22	22
Influenced by social science research	9	9	Interpersonal contacts	11	11
Influenced by combination of above	10	10	Exposure to issues/programs	7	7
	100	100	Public pressure	1	1
			Philosophical/organizational changes	3	3
			Resource availability	6	6
			No Data	1	-
				100	100
<u>Personnel Increases (N=58)</u>					
No research influence	33	60	Nonresearch influence	16	28
Influenced by statistics	12	21	Legal Administrative requirement	11	19
Influenced by evaluations	2	4	Personal assessment	14	24
Influenced by social science research	2	4	Interpersonal contacts	4	7
Influenced by combination of above	6	11	Exposure to issues/programs	4	7
	58	100	Public pressure	3	5
			Philosophical/organizational changes	2	3
			Resource availability	4	7
				58	100

TABLE 5

MEANS OF THE SIGNIFICANT FACTORS
THAT ARE ASSOCIATED WITH INFLUENCE TO ENGAGE
VOLUNTARILY IN VIOLENCE RELATED CHANGE

<u>Factors</u>	<u>Type of Influence</u>				Range of Scores	Grand Mean
	Research Influence	Non Research Influence	No Voluntary Change			
Research exposure	7.91	5.23	4.49	0-21		6.33
Interagency research sources linkages	1.07	.43	.58	0-3		.77
Information brokers	.26	.17	.14	0-1		.21
State agency	.26	.54	.56	0-1		.41
Alaska research sources	.13	.32	.27	0-1		.21
Autocratic management style	.20	.32	.42	0-1		.29
Tenure in director's position	2.58	2.19	4.54	>1-21		2.93
No specific violence reduction services	.22	.14	.47	0-1		.26
Bad research experiences	.62	.55	.35	0-2		.54
Domestic violence agency	.35	.38	.21	0-1		.33

TABLE 6

ROTATED STANDARDIZED DISCRIMINANT FUNCTION COEFFICIENTS
AND LOADINGS FOR EXPLORING RESEARCH INFLUENCE AND
NO VOLUNTARY ACTION TO ENGAGE IN POLICY DECISIONS

Variable	Discriminant Function Coefficients		Discriminant Function Loadings	
	Research Influence Function (1)	No Change Function (2)	Research Influence Function (1)	No Policy Change Function (2)
Research exposure	.50	-.18	.57	-.19
Alaska research sources	-.36	-.24	-.36	-.19
Interagency research sources linkages	.34	.14	.52	.11
Information brokers	.29	.16	.20	-.08
State agency	-.56	-.02	-.49	.07
Autocratic manage- ment style	-.22	.03	-.26	.22
Tenure in director's position	.07	.54	-.01	.68
No specific violence reduction services	.04	.54	.03	.70
Bad research experiences	.17	-.29	.11	-.23
Domestic violence agency	-.21	-.23	.01	-.32

a. Function 1 - Canonical correlation .52 accounting for 27.5% of the variance

b. Function 2 - Canonical correlation .36 accounting for 13.1% of the variance